

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9422
Ma8In3
cop.1

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Food Distribution Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

OCT 29 1943

July 14, 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FILE INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 7

To: Persons Concerned with Manpower Problems in Food Industries
From: Arthur J. Holmaas, Acting Chief, Food Industries Labor Branch
Subject: Action to Relieve Labor Problems in Refrigeration Activities

Peak season labor shortages in ice manufacturing plants, cold storage warehouses, and for refrigerating cars threatened substantial losses of fruits, vegetables, and other perishable foods in transit or in storage. Subsequent to a conference among the various agencies, called by the Food Industries Labor Branch on June 18, the following actions have been taken by these agencies to expedite an effective solution to this problem.

The War Manpower Commission issued instructions to all Regional Manpower Directors on June 25 urging that ice manufacturing and distribution be considered for classification as locally needed wherever necessary. Manpower Directors were also requested to give all possible assistance to local offices in furnishing the labor required.

The War Labor Board wired Regional Directors on July 6 to expedite all wage applications which have been or will be filed by ice manufacturing or distributing companies or cold storage warehouses and to give consideration to these cases on the basis of the special procedure provided for under the May 11 directive of the Director of Economic Stabilization. The Office of Defense Transportation and the Food Industries Labor Branch sent instructions on the procedure to be followed in filing wage adjustment applications to industry associations whose members have been hampered in their recruitment efforts by low wage scales.

The Interstate Commerce Commission moved to relieve the immediate emergency by issuing Service Order No. 132, the so-called "half-icing order," on June 28. This order requires common carriers to establish modified refrigeration service known as half-stage icing, for fruits and vegetables. This means that only the top half of the ice bunkers in refrigeration cars may be filled with ice and that modified charges must be made for this service. "Half-icing" will result in economy of motive power, manpower, and ice.

The War Department is considering revising Circular 129 to permit the granting of three-day passes to soldiers to permit them to be employed in refrigeration work in emergency situations. Although this and other actions may become necessary, the measures outlined above should be helpful in preventing serious spoilage of perishable foods.

Arthur J. Holmaas

on Col. 17

1701

1702

1703

1704

1705

1706

1707